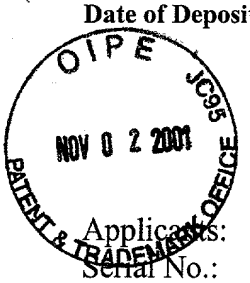
Express Mail No. EL862128074US
Date of Deposit: November 2, 2001



Attorney Docket No. 18133-090

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	Thomas F. Wenisch, et al.
Serial No.:	09/925,958
Filed:	August 9, 2001
For:	COMPUTER NETWORK SECURITY SYSTEM
Examiner:	Not Yet Assigned
Art Unit:	Not Yet Assigned

BOX MISSING PARTS
Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

09925958 - 110201

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Before examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

In the abstract:

Please replace the paragraph of abstract from line 1 to line 19 with the following paragraph:

A method and system are provided for authenticating a user of a computer over a computer network. In one embodiment of the invention, the method includes transmitting an applet having a challenge string and a first encryption key, receiving a login packet having the challenge string and a password that is encrypted using the first encryption key, decrypting the password, receiving information from an authentication provider, and authenticating the password by using the information provided by the authentication provider. The challenge string can be either a sequence number or a session identifier. The authentication provider can be a software program or an authentication server. An advantage of embodiments of the present invention is that a

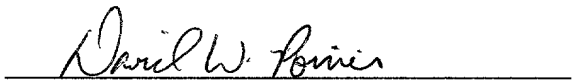
computer can provide secure Internet communications using a web browser that does not support SSL and can provide secure integration with third party security systems.

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the abstract to satisfy the requirement that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length as required by 37 C.F.R. 1.72(b) and specified in the NOTICE TO FILE CORRECTED APPLICATION PAPERS mailed September 14, 2001. No new matter is added by this amendment.

If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to call the Applicants' Attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: November 2, 2001

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

A method and system are provided for authenticating a user of a computer over a computer network. In one embodiment of the invention, the method includes transmitting an applet having a challenge string and a first encryption key, receiving a login packet having the challenge string and a password that is encrypted using the first encryption key, decrypting the password, receiving information from an authentication provider, and authenticating the password by using the information provided by the authentication provider. The challenge string can be either a sequence number or a session identifier. [The login packet can further include a user name, wherein the session identification, the user name, and the password are encrypted. Additionally, the login packet can include a hash of the session identification, the user name, and the password. Authenticating the password by using an authentication provider can include receiving from an authentication provider a second encryption key; encrypting using the second encryption key and transmitting to the authentication provider the password, receiving from the authentication provider a second hash of the password and a character string; and determining from the character string if the password is correct.] The authentication provider can be a software program or an authentication server. An advantage of embodiments of the present invention is that a computer can provide secure Internet communications using a web browser that does not support SSL and can provide secure integration with third party security systems.

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